

MEFC Community Group Study Questions

For the week of December 22nd – 28th

This week, we're going to use the COMA method of studying the Bible, with some adaptation to our text, Psalm 96. This method comes from Pastor David Helm in the book *One-to-One Bible Reading*.

Context

1. Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the passage was written?

Observation

2. Are there repetitions or multiple instances of similar ideas? How about all the vivid words for “worship”? Do these repetitions make a particular point, or point to the structure of the psalm?
3. What images or metaphors does the psalmist use? What do they indicate about God, those who worship God, and the nations? What might they indicate about us as modern readers?
4. What is the tone of the passage? What emotions is the author arousing?
5. Are there any surprises (put yourself in the shoes of the original singers—the Israelites gathered at the temple in Jerusalem (or a synagogue) to worship the LORD)?

Meaning

6. Are there specific instructions/commands given by the psalmist? Does this passage mention any consequences for not following God's commands?
7. How does the psalmist motivate the reader/audience, or make his appeal (hint: look for implicit and explicit appeals, like the use of the word “for, because”)?
8. What does the passage teach us about God, and his people, and life in his world?
9. Does the passage point forward to Jesus? Is the gospel anticipated or foreshadowed in some way?
10. What is the main point of Psalm 96?

Application

11. How does the main idea of Psalm 96 challenge (or confirm) your understanding and beliefs?
12. Is there some attitude you need to change? Given Psalm 96, what should be your heart's desire?
13. How does Psalm 96 challenge you to change the way you live? How does it lead you to be loyal to King Jesus?

Sermon Notes for 12/22/19
Psalm 96
“Worship the Lord, all the earth!”

Come worship the Lord in all His glory!

*Like a symphony orchestra or a 4-part harmony, we worship the LORD as we...

1. Sing to the wonderful _____ (1-3)
2. Praise the unrivaled _____ (4-6)
3. Honor the holy _____ (7-9)
4. Rejoice in the coming _____ (11-13)